

G/I-256
3 July 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Assistant Director for National Estimates

SUBJECT: Contribution to NIE 12.6-58, The Outlook in Poland

1. The following is submitted as an informal contribution by the Geographic Research Area to the question asked under IV-B-3 of the terms of reference for NIE 12.6-58: "What are the prospects, if any, for a change in Poland's policy concerning its Western borders?"

Judging from Polish achievements in, and plans for, the so-called Western Territories, there will be no change in Poland's policy regarding the Oder-Neisse line.

The Poles regard the Western Territories as an integral part of Poland, and the agricultural and industrial resources of these territories are of paramount importance in the continued development of the country. A primary objective of the postwar development program in the Western Territories has therefore been to transform the area in a way that would preclude revision of the western border. Vigorous efforts have been made to evacuate the German population of the area and to resettle it with ethnic Poles. Those industrial activities which could be readily oriented toward the needs of Poland's postwar economy have been rapidly re-established and strengthened.

SUBJECT: Contribution to NIE 12.6-98, The Outlook in Poland

The transformation of the Western Territories into an ethnic and economic region of present-day Poland has been realized. The population is now predominantly Polish and numbers approximately 6 million, which is 1 million less than before World War II. Production from many branches of heavy industry has approached or exceeded prewar levels and represents a sizable contribution to the total Polish output in these industries. The Western Territories' share of the total production of hard coal, coke, and electric power presently amounts to approximately 33, 54, and 35 percent, respectively. Expansion of the iron and steel industry has resulted in a substantial rise over the prewar production of pig iron, and an increase of more than 100 percent in the raw steel output. Notable increases have also been made in the machine-tool and chemical industries, whose present productions are several times greater than before World War II. Light industry and agriculture, however, still lag far behind their prewar status, reflecting the neglect of these activities under the pre-Gomulka regime. Efforts since 1956 have been directed toward stimulating a more rational land-use program under private ownership and toward reactivating many of the consumer-oriented industrial enterprises that had been abandoned. A large number of government committees, academic institutes, and local groups are currently cooperating actively with the national organization -- The Society for the Development of the Western Territories -- in

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planning and implementing projects and programs that will further
revive the neglected and depressed parts of the Western Territories
and bind them more closely to the nation.

2. We should welcome any comments or further requests that you
may have.



OTTO E. GUENZ
Assistant Director
Research and Reports

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